



The Coolidge Times

A Letter from the Principal

By Amy B. Clouter

When I first started writing newsletters, I was sure my biggest challenge would be thinking of enough topics. I was wrong! As it happens, there are a number of things you need to know. The difficulty for me lies in assessing the saliency of each bit of information, and considering the timing, too. Parents want to know first about the programs and practices that affect their children. With this in mind I decided I'd tell you about Title 1 today.

What is Title 1?

Title 1 is a federally funded intervention program, a regular education initiative designed to help schools with high rates of poverty assist students in reading and math. Our beloved Pat Broszeit oversees this program at Coolidge, in collaboration with Shrewsbury's Literacy Director, Patty Lambert.

Why does Coolidge qualify?

Students at Coolidge qualify for Title 1 services because 22% of our students receive free or reduced lunch. Importantly, once that rate is determined, any child in the school, regardless of

economic status, may qualify for tutoring.

Who gets help?

Classroom teachers work together with Pat Broszeit and I to determine students who could benefit from extra help.

Together we consider test scores, DRA assessments, math assessments, and a student's performance in class. The goal of the program is to assist and then 'graduate' students out. In other words, Title 1 students should not remain in the program indefinitely.

What does 'help' look like?

In essence, Title 1 support looks just like classroom instruction—in a smaller setting. Title 1 teachers work with up to six students at a time, and provide a "second dose" of the same instruction classroom teachers provide. In fact, often Title 1 teachers work with students just before or just after a subject has been taught. The goal is to provide either preview or review of key concepts.

How many tutors are there?

Coolidge is fortunate to have a number of tutors. We also have a need for the support they

offer. We've been allotted six tutors, four for Reading and two for Math. This is enough staff so that each classroom may opt to work with a tutor for some part of the day. However, tutors work part-time, and we are still looking to replace Kristy Baker, who took a long-term sub position at Floral, and fill open positions. It may well be that you have yet to meet a tutor. If you do, please introduce yourself: Our reading tutors are: Pat Johnson and Frances Howard. Our math tutors are Dan Ginsberg and Nandini Alagappan.

What can parents do to boost reading skills?

In a nutshell: Read, read, read! Encourage your children to read with you, to read aloud to you, to read independently, and to read a variety of text. Also, take some time to talk with your child about your reading; share your preferences, your challenges, and your favorite authors. Browse the library together. After all, the habits we model are the ones that will last. Choose wisely! Happy reading!

A Note From The Co-Presidents: ☺

Wow, December already! Time sure does fly by. Only 118 more days until summer vacation – not that we're counting. As 2006 draws to a close it is nice to reflect on all of the events that have taken place since September at Coolidge.

Thanks to the generosity of the Coolidge community, our children have enjoyed field trips to Plimoth Plantation and the Boston Museum of Science, enrichment events including an author visit, a storyteller, and a live owl presentation.

Students have participated in the Spirit of Shrewsbury parade, had fun at Family Fun Day and Fall Festival, and are immersed in Books and Beyond. In November, the Coolidge community also showed their generosity by donating many pounds of Halloween Candy and 10 Thanksgiving Baskets to St. Anne's Human Services.

December brings to Coolidge, Tom Luby, a local geologist to visit our 4th grade early in the month,

Gingerbread shop taking place all this week, the return of the Snowflake Festival, and our annual visit from the Worcester State Chorale. Please watch the calendar and Newsflashes for additional information on the above items. Don't forget to help spread warmth this winter by donating hats, gloves or socks to Mrs. Zimmermann's giving tree. As always, thank you for all of your generosity – it teaches our kids so much when we're able to help in small ways.

Here's wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season!
Your PTO Co-chairs,
Karen and Sue

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Friday 12/4-12/7**

Gingerbread shop is open !

- **Friday 12/8**

Books for Coolidge orders due

School Store open

- **Friday 12/15**

Deadline for Snowflake Festival *Book Exchange*

- **Friday 12/22**

Snowflake Festival

**SCHOOL STORE
UPDATE**

The school store will be open this Friday, December 8th for 2nd and 3rd graders. They may spend up to \$1.00 on school supply items.

4th grade Families:

It's not too late to make a donation to the school store.

The donations can be placed in the bin in the lobby. Call Denise Johnson at 508-363-2487 with questions.

**SNOWFLAKE
FESTIVAL**

See article on p. 4

Once again this year we are asking each student to please send in \$1 which will be put towards the purchase of the supplies for the Snowflake Festival.



NURSE'S NOTE

With the arrival of December, the cold New England weather is sure to follow.

The children will go out to recess every day as long as it is not raining and the temperature is above 20F (including wind chill factor). Please send your child to school dressed appropriately for outdoor play with a heavy coat, hat, gloves, and boots.

Please feel free to call me (508-841-8887) if I can help with the purchase of any of these items for your child.

Medication Memo:

Shrewsbury Public School's Medication Policy forbids sending medication to school in a child's backpack. Tylenol and Motrin must always be in their proper containers, and dropped off in the Nurse's office. No medication will ever be accepted in a plastic bag with a note.

Thank you and have a safe and fun filled December,

Katie Zimmermann, RN.

⚡ Important deadline AHEAD...

Read all About It!

Books for Coolidge orders for the holidays are due in by Friday, Dec. 8th. If there are any questions please email Katie Busick at:

ktbusick@townisp.com

HEALTH BEAT

Dear Coolidge Families,

Stand up and cheer for our Coolidge School athletes. They strived to score in the healthy fitness zone range on the FITNESSGRAM.

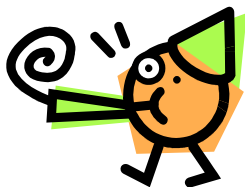
All Shrewsbury Public School students take this FITNESSGRAM fitness assessment twice per year to graph improvement progress from fall (1st assessment) to spring (2nd assessment). Coolidge School students are already excited to go for component score improvement! Go Team Coolidge!

Also, many thanks to our Coolidge Families, for your support of our Physical Education Program and all that you do as volunteers, sneaker donors (got any more?) and for your gift of time coming in and participating in P.E. classes. You're tops!

Finally, you can help in KEEPING PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOL thanks to Richard Simmons, the guru of moving and shaking the body and soul to fitness with fun! Here is Richard's link for the survey including all ages to respond:

<http://www.richardsimmons.com>

Keeping Physical Education in school continues teaching students to play and achieve in the future games of life! Happy Holidays!
Cindy Barko



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ELEMENTARY HEALTH?

By Mrs. Burgholzer

The second graders have completed the Growth and Development Unit. This includes the Digestive System and Circulatory System. During the Digestive System we read The Journey of a Hamburger by Paul Showers. Through the journey they discovered the body parts of digestion. They re-created the digestive system using pasta to identify the body parts on a diagram.

During the Circulatory System we read A Drop of Blood by Paul Showers. The students are able to identify the parts of the blood and the purpose for each part. We used an old family recipe of plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and fibrin to make "blood" in class. The students also listen to their heart beats using a stethoscope.

The fourth graders have completed the Growth and Development Unit as well. Their area of concentration is the Skeletal and Muscular Systems. While playing the Body Bingo game, they had fun identifying the major bones and muscles. They understand how our muscles allow us to move and how the skeleton gives us our shape, support and protects our major organs.

Both the second and fourth graders are very curious about how their body works and they are very receptive to these health lessons in the Growth and Development Unit. We will finish the year with a Winter Safety lesson just in time for vacation.

Happy Holidays and have a fun and safe vacation.



BOOKS & BEYOND

The students have been making tremendous progress in moving their grade level trains along the reading program track in Coolidge's gymnasium! Grades 2, 3 and 4 have reached and moved past Station 1! The students in each of these grades were treated to a student assembly where their destination was revealed to them – Costa Rica. Each classroom then received a collection of related materials so that they could explore this fascinating country through books! Grade 1 is expected to arrive at Station 1 any time now! Please keep recording those reading minutes and help your student's grade level train continue to move down the track. Our goal is for each grade level to read a cumulative total of 120,000 minutes. There are a total of 6 more stations that the students will be striving to reach, each of which is 20,000 minutes apart.

In addition, anyone who has visited Coolidge lately has seen our reading program participation thermometer steadily climb. More and more students have begun making their way through the eight stations on the walls of our cafeteria as they complete the *journey through books* portion of our reading program. So far we have enrolled 281 students, and only 50 readers remain to

be registered. We need your help! Your child can participate in this program by reading at home with you, and help is available at school as well on Homework Helper mornings. All it takes is ten minutes a day! If you have any questions about the program, please contact Kathy Taylor at 508.890.5854 or

Kathleen_taylor@townisp.com

SNOWFLAKE FESTIVAL PLANS

Once again this year the students will be celebrating the Snowflake Festival. The festival will take place on Friday, December 22nd. Each classroom will enjoy a special snack from home. The PTO will be providing each student with a special bag to pack their snack in. (*Please keep in mind the food allergies that may be present in your student's classroom when selecting this snack.*) In addition, the students will be participating in the following activities: the book exchange and a read-aloud story with a corresponding craft.

For the book exchange component of the festival, please remember that the deadline for sending in your wrapped paperback book is **Friday, December 15th**. If you are looking for some guidance in selecting your book, you can consider the following authors by grade level: Grade 1: Jan Brett, Margaret Wise Brown, Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, Tomie DePaola, Steven Kellogg, Leo Lionni, Mother Goose, H.A. Rey, Rosemary Wells, Vera B. Williams, Jim Arnosky, Denise Fleming Grade 2: Marc Brown, Tomie DePaola, Judith Caseley, Grace Lin, Arnold Lobel, Cynthia Rylant, Marjorie Sharmat, Greg Tang, Rosemary Wells, Vera B. Williams, Kevin Henkes, Roald Dahl, Louis

Sachar, Shel Silverstein, Lynne Cherry, Valerie Worth Grade 3: David Adler, Betsy Byars, Matt Christopher, Beverly Cleary, Paula Danziger, Jean Fritz, Megan McDonald, Mary Pope Osborne, Ron Roy, Margerie Sharmat, Greg Tang, Ann Turner, Chris Van Allsburg, Gertrude Chandler Warner, Douglas Florian, Jack Prelutsky, Eve Bunting Grade 4: Judy Blume, Matt Christopher, Andrew Clements, Sharon Creech, Roald Dahl, Lois Lowry, Walter Dean Myers, Jon Scieszka, Patricia Polacco, E.B. White, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Betty Ren Wright

When participating in the story and craft part of the festival, each grade level will read a different book and complete a different craft. Grade 1 will read *The Mitten* by Jan Brett; Grade 2 will read *Stranger in the Woods: A Photographic Fantasy* by Carl R. Sams and Jean Stoick; Grade 3 will read *Night Tree* by Eve Bunting and Ted Rand; and Grade 4 will read *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and Mary Azarian. Grade 1 will then decorate mittens; Grade 2 will decorate snowmen; Grade 3 will decorate trees; and Grade 4 will make snowflakes. The whole collection of crafts will be displayed on the wall in the main lobby at Coolidge after the holiday break. Come see Coolidge's Winter Wonderland when we return from break!

In addition to these wonderful events, the Worcester State Chorale will also be visiting Coolidge on Friday, December 22nd. They will be performing a selection of holiday songs for the students. The students have really enjoyed their performance in the past and we're certain they'll love it again!

Questions? Contact Kathy Taylor or Karen Coulombe